



The future of history

Bicentennial Committee looks ahead

50



Stories and poems to tell

Former council member authors books

10



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Saturday, March 5, 2011

Be a bookworm during March break



Ten-year-old Cindy Cuyugen, left, and 11-year-old Carl Paulemont are getting ready for March Break activities at the Fort Erie Public Library (FEPL), which includes a number of movies and even a Mad Science "Jungle Antics" presentation on Mar. 16. Kids will also have the opportunity to find several "bookworms" hidden throughout the library, with a chance to win a "worm stew" from Nigh's Chocolates. For more information, call the FEPL at (905) 871-2546.

No input on merger

 PBA and Town not consulted before resolution made on Buffalo Common Council

Kris Dubé
The Times

Mayor Doug Martin feels the metropolis on the opposite side of the Niagara River's recent consideration of amalgamation between the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA) and the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, but without any warning or dialogue to the Town of Fort Erie.

At Monday's council meeting, local residents received a resolution made by Buffalo's common council about the potential merger and last week, a resolution was even to reject the idea, considering the Town of Fort Erie was not notified of this action, until it was brought to their attention by the PBA.

Martin was not pleased, to say the least.

He feels Fort Erie's American neighbours need to take far more consideration into this potential move on what the Town of Fort Erie's position is on this matter.

See Page 4

Kim Craitor MPP

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Teacher gets pied



Grade two student at Garrison Road Public School Nicky Knutti applies a pie to the face of vice-principal Mike Burns. This was the end result of a fundraiser for new instruments for the school's music program that will cost up to \$6,000. The school's parent council paid for half of the cost, while the Niagara Education Foundation pitched in another \$2,000. Students raised about \$400 on their own.

Police lay charges after premises checks

Over the past several weeks, Detective and uniformed officers from no. 5 District in Fort Erie in partnership with representatives from the Fort Erie Fire Department and Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario have been conducting premises checks at numerous licensed businesses within the Town of Fort Erie.

Last Friday, the involved agencies identified approximately 20 infractions resulting in charges at several

licensed establishments for offences under the Liquor Licence Act and the Fire Code.

Police are committed to continue licensed premises checks within the Town of Fort Erie for offences such as intoxication and unwanted persons, impaired driving, underage patrons and infractions against fire regulations. Police want to ensure that patrons attending a licenced premises have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Charges from 2006 break and enter

On December 11th, 2006 uniform officers attended at the scene of a residential break and enter, located on Kain Road. During the investigation, forensic evidence was gathered and sent to the Ontario Forensic Sciences for analysis. On July 21st, 2010 a suspect was identified and the investigation was reopened.

On March 2nd, 2011 the male suspect was arrested and charged with one count of break and enter and theft.

At the time of the offence, the accused was fifteen years of age and for this reason cannot be named under the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

At the time of the break and enter, the accused was also found to be in possession of a small amount of cocaine and was on a term of probation for an unrelated criminal offence. In light of these circumstances, the male was further charged with one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance and Breach of Probation.

Sewage pumped into environment

The Town of Fort Erie wants residents to know that on Monday, February 28, 2011 significant rainfall and snowmelt conditions resulted in a sewage by-pass from the sanitary sewer system to the environment. The by-pass of sewage flows occurred in the vicinity of the Dominion Road pumping station and

the Stevensville pumping station. Please also note that sewage by-pass events also occurred at these locations on January 1, 2011 and February 18, 2011. This action was necessary in order to prevent base flooding in the adjacent residential areas, says director of infrastructure services Ron Tripp.

Condo petitions available next week

Kris Dubé
The Times

There has been plenty of discussion around Greater Fort Erie about what percentage of the population supports or opposes the Crystal Beach Gateway Project. On Wednesday, March 9, local residents are invited to have their say on one of two petitions that will be presented to council. There are two forms that can be filled out, one that allows people to show their support for the re-peal of by-law 26-10 and the other to show opposition.

The petition will be available at Avon-Mart on Garrison Road in Crescent Park, the Avalon and Crystal Beach on Ridgeway Road and also at Brodie's Drug Store on Ridge Road in Ridgeway from 4 to 7 p.m. The petition will only be available at Brodie's until 6 p.m.

Bertie Tire in Stevensville and the Old Bank Bistro have also agreed to have them on hand.

Patti Carver, the person behind creating this opportunity for residents to put their opinion on paper, says representatives from both sides of the issue will be on hand at these locations so balanced data will be the end result.

"I want to make sure there isn't any prejudice," said Carver.

She feels the local government is being faced with a very difficult decision and are hearing arguments from supporters and the opposition that their side has more people on it.

"I think this council is really struggling with what's right or wrong," she said.

"They need more input from the community," she added.

Carver was a delegate at the Feb. 22 council-in-committee meeting and admits she was reluctant to publicly speak about her position on the issue. She feels there are many other people in Greater Fort Erie who want to have their say but would rather not do it by making a delegation at a council meeting for a number of reasons.

"This is a great way for people to voice their opinion, whether they are for or against it," she said.

Anyone residing in Greater Fort Erie will be eligible to sign either petition.

For more information, Carver can be reached at (905) 658-2897.

Two weeks in a row, the local council chambers have been flooded with opinion over the Crystal Beach Gateway Project.

On Monday night, a total of 15 speakers provided insight, as to why they support or oppose the idea of beginning the re-peal by-law 26-10, which essentially would kill the project.

Again, there was no shortage of emotion from those who spoke at the podium, including former fire chief Jim Douglas, who criticized the current council's decision to use money earmarked for the Fort Erie Fire Department and instead give it to the town of 2010 Jarvis Street for a second legal opinion of whether or not the Town could be faced with millions of dollars in litigation for breaking its contract with the Molinaro Group.

Douglas, who spent 50 years employed with the Town of Fort Erie and retired from his post as fire chief about a year-and-a-half ago, says he has never seen the amount of disinterest this council has sent to town staff in all of his years.

"I'm flabbergasted by the

way some of you have treated staff," said Douglas in front of a crowded council chamber.

He was referring to a recommendation supported by councillors Steckley, Collard, Hill and Lubbes to seek a third-party legal opinion on the Crystal Beach leases after the Town's solicitor, chief administrative officer and director of financial services have all said publicly that a costly lawsuit could be on its way.

"All you need is \$100 to get elected and instantly you have become an expert in everything," said Douglas.

He continued by applauding the level of expertise and passion that residents have within Town staff and says staff council needs to realize this.

"Just because you don't get the answer you want, it doesn't give you a license to take a fire shot at a person's integrity."

Douglas finished by saying he hopes the money originally set aside for the land markers and design of a new fire station can be found, because volunteer firefighters won't sit back and let the much needed improvements not come to fruition.

"The actions of this council

will have severe impacts on the town's finances and will again delay fire station upgrades," he said.

Going back to an earlier comment made by Douglas, Ward 4 Coun. John Hill said Integrity is a big word" and that the public has heard comments made by people through email or on social networking sites about his own integrity, following council's recent decision to begin re-pealing by-law 26-10, something he stands firmly by.

"I think we need to take a step back and see how we use that word," said Hill.

Passero responded by saying that council members should expect to be challenged while active in the political arena.

"You open yourself up to those shots. Staff does not, especially from council," said Douglas.

"People are going to say as they feel, you open yourself as a political target," added the former chief.

Later in the meeting, under the agenda item point of the agenda, Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero put a recommendation on the table, to

identify a funding source, unknown at the time, to replace the \$20,000 taken from the fire facilities reserve fund, prior to the construction of a new hall.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular said council needs to be more "proactive" and that where the funds would come from and feels the cost should be added to the 2011 budget.

"Let's call a spade a spade," said Shular.

"Where are we finding this \$20,000?" asked Shular.

Passero responded, saying the money could be found after a project comes in under budget, for example.

Or, it will come from what will be a considerable debate I'm sure, but this is to send a signal to the fire services community that the \$20,000 will be going back," said Passero.

The recommendation was approved by council.

Provided a closed session meeting, where council discussed a third-party independent legal review and returned to the council chambers shortly after 12:30 a.m. without report.

See Page 4

Bay Beach floods another meeting

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Budget process continues

The Town of Fort Erie has made some strides with its budget process.

On Wednesday evening, council approved its general levy operating budget to the tune of \$18,926,407 after only a few minor adjustments.

Council decided to remove a one time grant of \$48,361 requested by the Economic Development and Tourism Corporation and instead took \$20,000 from those funds to relinquish the fire facilities reserve fund for improve-

ments to station no. 2 on Jarvis Street.

The amount was originally removed to pay for a third party legal review into the Bay Beach issue, approved by council two weeks ago.

Other items included in the budget also include \$26,000 for all three Business Improvement Areas and their watering programs in the summer months, along with \$50,000 each for the War of 1812 bicentennial committee and the Fort Erie Historical Museum for the restoration

of the 6218 steam engine locomotive.

This works out to a 3.19 per cent increase to taxpayers, which is \$6.36 per month.

The capital budget was also reaffirmed after being tabled last month. Council will consider approving it through by-law on March 7.

On Monday, council also approved its water and sewer budget through by-law, which will put a 3.98 per cent increase onto taxpayers, equating to \$3.61 per month.

Fire department satisfied

From Page 3

Current fire chief Larry Coplen said he is satisfied with council's recent decision to replenish the fire facilities reserve fund.

"This will put to rest a lot of the fears some fire-fighters had," said Coplen.

He said when council originally decided to reallocate funds earmarked for station no. 2 for a third-party legal review into the Bay Beach issue, many members of the fire department had questions.

"As soon as the motion came forward to use that

'Start acting like partners,' says Martin

From Page 1

"Start acting like partners start acting like good neighbours. Instead of treating us like we don't happen to be here. The bridge does land in another country and I'm not sure if they are aware of that," said Martin.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular agreed with the mayor's comments, saying he looks at this resolution passed by Buffalo as something that was done without even the consideration of contacting the Town of Fort Erie.

"I truly believe they snubbed us," said Shular, who also feels that over roughly the last two years conversation between both neighbouring municipalities has dwindled.

"It seems as of late, that dialogue has ended," he added.

In a letter addressed to the Town, PBA general manager Ron Rienas says the bridge agency was not notified of this resolution's passing along with the Town.

He continues by saying the PBA worked co-operatively with Fort Erie and the Niagara parks Commission

to reconfigure the Canadian plaza and border operations.

"In so doing, we were able to facilitate the flow of traffic, reduce vehicle idling, improve air quality and enhance the adjacent neighbourhoods," wrote Rienas.

Rienas also feels this action has created another obstacle over building a three-span bridge expansion and new U.S. Customs plaza and that the resolution was passed due to the opinions of U.S. citizens who do not want to see a new plaza and bridge erected.

"The reason this came forward, is in large part a result of residents who are opposed to the project being there, lobbying to have this passed," Rienas told the Times on Thursday.

He feels the decision should have been based more on efficiencies, rather than what is provided in the correspondence from the meeting where it was passed by Buffalo's common council. Instead, a lot of the dialogue provided in a transcript from the meeting touches on health concerns and the alleged illnesses

that nearby residents have endured over the years of the Peace Bridge's existence.

With the completion of the plaza on this side of the river, entering Canada has been a lot easier and more efficient, said Rienas.

With an out of date plaza in the U.S., it's different going the other way.

"The same does not apply to Canada, we still have issues going into the U.S., which adversely impacts Fort Erie," he said.

He agreed with the comments made by Martin and Shular while in the audience at Monday's meeting, saying both sides of the bridge need to be made aware of these types of decisions.

"The Peace Bridge crosses the Niagara River, not the Buffalo River," said Rienas.

He described the proposed merger as a "very complex thing to do" considering inconsistencies with both the governance between both the PBA and the Niagara falls Bridge Commission.

The Peace Bridge is controlled by the federal government in Canada, but by New York State in the U.S.

Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is operated by congressional legislation in the U.S. and has a license to operate by the province of Ontario on the Canadian side.

This would require several amendments to legislation and the passing of new bills at those levels.

To date, all approvals for the three-span arch have been given in Canada. In the U.S. a record of decision, essentially the final environmental approvals need to be given by the Federal Highway Administration.

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Bicentennial Committee provides update to council

The Fort Erie Bicentennial Committee outlined its 2012 program to town council on Monday, highlighting the key events planned for the celebration of the War of 1812's 200-year anniversary.

"For Erie was a pivotal site in the War of 1812 and the War itself was a critical point in Canadian history," said project co-ordinator John Johnston.

"This is the most important national commemoration and celebration since the centennial in 1967 and it is fitting that events in

Fort Erie was a pivotal site in the War of 1812 and the War itself was a critical point in Canadian history."

— John Johnston

Fort Erie should be a focal point if the Bicentennial, he added.

The motto for the project is "1812, Canada's first step to nationhood."

The theme's of the local celebrations will be based on the military events, the community in 1812 and the impact the war on local citizens, along with celebrating the 200 years of peace with the United States that followed the close of the War.

Johnston also explained that the 2012 program is designed to enlist a high level of community involvement and serve as a major tourist attraction for the area.

"The Bicentennial Committee is working closely with all levels of government, the Region, local municipalities and U.S. counterparts to maximize the potential economic advantage for the Fort Erie area," said Johnston.

Highlights of the planned activities will be the "grand Parade" on June 23, 2012 which will include approximately 50 military bands, units and re-enactor groups from Canada, the U.S. and the United Kingdom. The Prince of Wales Regimental Band from the United Kingdom has committed to participate, along with the U.S. Marine Band.

Other units from Canada, including the Central Band of the Canadian Forces have been invited.

Johnston also said an invitation will be sent to Queen Elizabeth and any other member of the Royal Family that wishes to attend. Prime Minister Stephen Harper will also be asked to participate, as well as political satirist and TV personality Rick Mercer.



Travis Hill, left, John Sek, Daryl Learn, Justin Letourneau, Brad Maves and William Heykoop before storming the council chambers on Monday night, when War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee project co-ordinator John Johnston briefed council about plans that are underway for the celebration that will take place in 2012.

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opinion page

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our editorial

If you have an opinion, fill out a petition this week

If you have a position on the controversial Bay Beach issue, make sure you sign one of the petitions available at a handful of local establishments on Wednesday.

Although, councillors certainly aren't obligated to base their decision on the final results, it will hopefully provide some more closure on exactly what the population of Greater Fort Erie's stance is on the project.

For years, we've been hearing that 95 per cent of the population is opposed to a 12-storey condominium on the south side of Erie Road, which has been countered by supporters of the development with claims that this statement simply isn't true.

In order to achieve accurate findings, those volunteering to be stationed at where the petition is available must approach it objectively and not attempt to sway people on which petition they will sign, either against or in support of re-pealing by-law 26-10.

As it has been stated many times, by a number of different people, this town is in what could be referred to as a civil war over this issue.

So, let's hope whatever the final tally is with these petitions, that both sides will agree to disagree when it is said and done and we can move on to the next matter.

-Kris Dubé

Take a breath and stop causing headaches



Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebook

Well, it seems like I have stirred the pot more than I have in a long time with one of my editor's notebooks.

I want to stress that the primary message I was attempting to put out

there, was that people need to 'tone it down a notch' when referring to the personal lives of councillors, mentioning their children, wives or significant others. That type of thing.

A lot of people are confused, thinking I meant that standing up for what you believe in should be frowned upon. I said you should continue to call your councillors and email them because

the more they hear from you, the more obligated they are to respond. If you are having issues with councillors not calling you back, which I have read a lot about this weekend... then perhaps that's a whole other story to write about in an upcoming issue.

I've put myself right out in the open on several occasions, saying that the Crystal Beach Gateway Project would be great for

the area and wrote editorials about why I feel this way. And like I expected, was criticized heavily for it by those who feel differently.

Now, people who support the project are upset with my comments because I stood up for councillors on the other side of the issue and their families, basically.

I read a comment somewhere before I wrote Saturday's editori-

al, I don't recall who even wrote it and it wasn't even offered by one of my Facebook 'friends.' It said something about four councillors 'turning up in a ditch.' I'm not sure it wasn't meant to be serious and was merely an attempt at comedy...but that's not necessary, to put it lightly.

If people felt I was criticizing them for exercising their freedom of speech then I apologize if you didn't get the mes-

sage.

I understand everyone's frustration in town right now and it's bringing out a lot of personality in people, but I encourage everyone to sit back and take a deep breath before you give yourself a migraine because I sure feel one settling in right now.

Leave me feedback at (905) 871-3100 ext. 207 or through email at editorial@forterietimes.com



Do You Remember?

Unfortunately, there were no callers for last week's photo of the Rotary Club presentation, so it will go back into the unidentified people binders here at the

Museum.

Written on the back of this week's photo of three aspiring models is the name Darlene Maffet and the date Nov. 24, 1975. If you know any of these

girls or the circumstances around this photo, please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca.

opinion page

'Special interest' groups need to examine the entire situation

Dear Editor,

I believe a lot of people in the Crystal Beach area have been lead down the garden path by a group of people who have nothing but their own interest at hand. If anyone thinks that this Fort Erie Waterfront Preservation Association will ever comply with any development plan than I am sure there must be a bit of cosmetic upgrades such as a few picnic tables, a couple of gazebos and maybe a "sucker stand," none of which will really attract visitors enhancing the natural beauty or give us a return on our over two million dollar investment. You better think again. This group is calling this Crystal Beach's most valuable asset, and when I say it was the Town of Fort Erie that purchased this beach and made it public, so it is not just Crystal Beach's most valuable asset, it is Fort Erie's most valuable asset. If the people of that area want commerce and visitors it might be wise to attract your immediate neighbours first, because if the people next door won't go there than who do you think?

Do the restaurant owners who display those "yellow" signs think they have it locked up if they don't have to compete with a restaurant in that condo complex? My wife and I go out every Saturday night for dinner and we like to go to different places for variety and most people

do like variety. So this doesn't mean we couldn't come to you place anymore, it would just mean that your place would be one of the places we would like to go. I think for now I'll go somewhere else but the Crystal Beach area of town, and maybe out of town for dinner.

Is it the summer residents that are now the catalyst behind the opposition to the waterfront? I think that will bring more business and revitalization to this area or could it be your year round neighbours you should be targeting? How many times do they frequent your business? They have been here every summer for years and when have they done anything to the life style from September to May? I'm not saying they shouldn't be here but I am saying they shouldn't control who is here or what is here. They don't think this project is a bad idea, they know it is a great idea and it will probably jeopardize their monopoly on owning the waterfront. If some of them start to sell to other restaurants for good value then I think it will spread. If these people could move the Point Abino gates to the corner of Schooley, and Erie Roads they would. They have used the "divide and conquer concept" perfectly in their favour on this issue. Don't even think it....I'm not anti

American, I'm just anti "special interest groups" controlling our life style. One of my best friends is from Lancaster N.Y. and he has a cottage along the lake on Terrace Lane. He is obviously on the other side of this issue than I am but he still stops at my house every time he comes to Canada to see if I'm going to the Boat Club or the Legion with him, so he is not anti American. Oh yeah, he's in Daytona, Florida right now renting a condo on the beach, he does this every year for the month of February. I keep him informed what's going on with this issue. I'm damn sure one of the first places he stops in the spring when he comes over to his cottage will be my place. Do the supporters of this issue need to be a "special interest group"? Oh yeah, I think it is an legal action against the town before this council will listen to wishes of the people of Fort Erie.

The whole idea of this project was to revitalize this area for the enjoyment of all the people of Fort Erie and because of the short sightedness and attitudes of the local residents they have completely isolated themselves from the rest of this town. The rest of the residents will come and use their beach and go somewhere else and spend their money afterwards.

Howie Climenhaga
Ridgeway

The **TIMES** Asks



Rebecca Nigh



Caroline Nicholson-Lapinski



Ada Stark



Rebecca Proulx

"All women are special and it's important to celebrate our sisterhood."

"We have to go back to the beginning and celebrate what our mothers and grandmothers taught us."

"Women give so far in the last 100 years. It's important not to forget the gains we've made and not let them slip."

What do you think?
E-mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905-871-3100, ext. 207

Front page photo produces results for food bank

Dear Editor,

The saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" certainly holds true at Community Outreach Program Erie (COPE) this week. The picture and write-up that ran on the front page of the February 26 edition of The Times has generated a generous blessing of

support for COPE. families.

COPE provides this emergency service to people throughout the entire Greater Fort Erie area. (Fort Erie, Ridgeway, Crystal Beach, Stevensville, Sherkston).

Thank you again to everyone for caring.

Barb Volzke
COPE

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With a relevant academic background and proven business insight, you will administer the Town's Procurement Policy and lead the entire purchasing/tendering cycle – from proactively assisting users, cost analysis and need identification through to the payment of suppliers – in a timely, transparent and cost-effective manner. Want to know more? Visit us at www.town.forterie.ca Go to "Town Hall", then click on Employment Opportunities. The deadline for receiving applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2011.

(2) LOOKING FOR SUMMER WORK?

The Corporation is now accepting applications for summer student employment opportunities in parks/cemeteries; facilities; roads; horticulture; museums; engineering and office administration. Schedules may include Saturday and Sunday. Some positions require a valid, Class G drivers' license.

Further details are available at www.town.forterie.ca. Go to "Town Hall", then click on Employment Opportunities.

Returning students MUST apply. Application forms are available on-line, at Town Hall, the Leisureplex and the Gibson Centre. The deadline for receiving applications is 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY MARCH 25, 2011.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(1) OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING ON STREETS

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS: In an effort to keep the streets free of vehicles during the winter months for snowplowing and sanding operations, residents are reminded that no overnight parking is permitted.

Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. **Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law.**

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216 (Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Jack Cox).

(2) COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2014

A Public Meeting has been scheduled to take place during the March 21, 2011 Council-in-Committee meeting to provide the opportunity to comment on Municipal Council's draft 2011-2014 Corporate Strategic Plan.

The draft Strategic Plan sets out the most important Council priorities, goals and initiatives to focus on over the next four years.

The Draft Plan is available for viewing as of February 28, 2011 on the Town's web-site at: www.forterie-on.ca. Copies are also available at Town Hall, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie. Comments will be received until noon on March 9, 2011.

It would be appreciated if any person wishing to address Council on the Draft Plan's content during the Public Meeting contact the Clerk's Office by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2011 by contacting 905-871-1600 ext. 2236.

Please direct any inquiries and all comments to the undersigned.

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
(905) 871-1600 Ext. 2201
bbradham@forterie.on.ca

(3) NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING BUILDING PERMIT FEES

Builders and members of the public are invited to attend the Public Meeting pursuant to Section 7 of the Building Code Act Regarding the Proposed Increases to Building Permit Fees at the Regular Council in Committee meeting on:

Monday April 4, 6:00 p.m., 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario

The proposal is to increase Building Permit Fees by 6.8%. The Objective is to operate closer to cost recovery from permit fee Revenue. The costs of administering and enforcing the Building Code Act is available on the Town's website.

For information regarding Building Permit Fees, please contact Robert Romanuk, Chief Building Official at: (905) 871-1600 Ext. 2515 or rromanuk@forterie.on.ca

(4) TOWN OF FORT ERIE 2011 MARCH BREAK PUBLIC SKATING

Leisureplex: March 12th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
March 13th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
March 14th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
March 15th 7:00 - 9:00 pm \$2.50/Person



March 17th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
March 19th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
March 20th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
Crystal Ridge Arena: March 11th 8:00 - 10:00 pm \$2.50/Person
March 16th 2:00 - 3:30 pm \$1.50/Person
March 18th 8:00 - 10:00 pm \$2.50/Person

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

(1) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CAO-02-2011

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting proposals from qualified professional firms and individuals to conduct an:

OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

Sealed proposals clearly marked as to contents will be received by Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk, Municipal Centre, Fort Erie ON until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

THURSDAY MARCH 31ST, 2011

Specific project details and requirements are provided in the Proposal Call documents. Proposal Call documents may be obtained from Town Hall at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6 on Monday February 28, 2011.

Inquiries regarding the Request for Proposal can be directed to Harry Schlange, CAO at 905-871-1600 ext 2200 or

E-mail: hschlange@forterie.on.ca

(2) STREET SWEEPING SERVICES 2 YEAR CONTRACT 2011-2012 CONTRACT # ISO-02-2011

Sealed tenders, clearly marked as to content will be received by Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk, until 2:00 p.m. **THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2011** for the following:

STREET SWEEPING SERVICES – VARIOUS TOWN STREETS

Tender forms may be picked up at the J L Gibson Centre, 1818 Petit Road, Fort Erie ON starting March 1, 2011.

Effective February 1, 2011, all Town of Fort Erie's formal competitive bid opportunities, issued by the Purchasing Services Division will be posted on Bidding.com and organized by commodity. This service will provide businesses with a "one stop shop" for bid opportunities available from the town of Fort Erie, as well as other organizations using [www.Bidding.com/forterie](http://Bidding.com/forterie). This service could open new markets for the goods or services you offer.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Infrastructure Services Department

Steady flow of donations



On Monday, the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Kinsmen Club, with the help of discounted prices from Joe's Val-U-Mart, donated a collection of food to both Community Outreach Program Erie and the St. Vincent De Paul food bank, based out of St. George's Catholic Church. In this photo are Joe Ambrosio, left, Marc Zucarelli, Andrew Miner, Mandy Crosby, Bob Lavar and Judy Lear.

Police investigating washroom fire at high school

Last Friday, at approximately 11:45 a.m., Niagara Regional Police along with Fort Erie Fire Department personnel, responded to Fort Erie Secondary School for a report of a small fire within the school. Upon

arrival, it was learned that there had been a minor fire contained in a second floor washroom and was quickly put out through the use of an extinguisher. The fire appeared to have been deliberately set. Due to the prompt actions of school

staff and the Fort Erie Fire Department, damage was minimal and no students or staff members were harmed.

Police investigating this matter as very serious and advise that the investigation is ongoing.

This incident remains under investigation by the no. 5 District Detective Office. Any witnesses to this incident or anyone with any information are asked to contact investigators at (905) 688-4111, extension 2300.



PETER JESIK



JOHN MACLELLAN

Brian Rankin, President of Rankin Construction Inc. and Port Colborne Quarries, and Wendy Wing, President of Rankin Renewable Energy, wish to make the following announcements:

Peter Jesik will be promoted to Operations Manager - Asphalt and Quarries. Peter has been a very valuable employee of the company for 24 years. Born and raised in Thruway, he attended Dennis Morris High School and The University of Windsor. Peter is endowed with a hard working ethic and exceptional mechanical skills.

Rankin
Construction Inc.

Merger would address efficiencies, says Buffalo council member

From Page 4

been proposed before," said Rivera.

President Pro-Tempore of the City of Buffalo's Common Council, David Rivera, explained this is not the first time this idea has been brought to the table and that it is part of an initiative spearheaded by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, in an effort to consolidate various authorities and agencies across New York State.

"If you're talking about savings, this is a great opportunity to do that," said Rivera.

"There's a chance for efficiencies and a chance to look at this more regional-ly," he added.

Fundraiser tonight at Italoclub

The community is invited to attend a fundraiser tonight at the Italoclub, to benefit local real estate agent Rick Passero, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

The event starts at 6 p.m., and there will be food, games, prizes and live

music. Tickets are five dollars and for more information you can contact Stephen Passero at (905) 871-9868.



**Have you
HEARD?**

by Alaina Miller, M.D.
Regional Director of CACD/C
Audiology

**THE "COCKTAIL
PARTY EFFECT"**

Scientists have long wondered how the brain is able to pick out one specific sound in a noisy-filled room. This phenomenon, known as the "cocktail party effect," is the ability to carry on a conversation in busy environments. Recently, researchers listening to birds have provided some important clues. To find out how zebra finches pick out one voice in a cacophony crowd, scientists studied their brains while the birds listened to audio recordings. The birds' brains showed a similar pattern to humans. First, a zebra, acted like dogs barking by their mother's voice. Other zebra listened long stretches of sound looking for a particular vocal feature. If human brains have similar cells, it may lead to advances in hearing instrument technology.

People who have normal hearing in both ears can benefit from hearing aids to help in noisy environments, since the brain uses the information received from both ears to hear a sound source. If you have noticed a significant decrease in your ability to hear out of one or both ears, call HEARING BALANCE & HEARING CLINICS at 905-471-4929 to schedule a comprehensive hearing test. We will evaluate your hearing, provide a diagnosis and recommend the appropriate hearinginstrument for your particular condition. Our office is located at 600 Garrison Rd., Unit 12. Please visit our website at www.hearingbalanceandhearing.com.

PS: Scientists have found that the brain cells that cut out

background noise while they amplify their own response to sound.



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Former councillor showcasing love of the written word



Glenn Hutton, who served as a member of town council from 1982 to 85, will be at the From Cover to Cover Bookstore on Ridge Road in Ridgeway next Saturday for readings of his two recently published pieces of literature, a fictional novel called "Sean and Himself," and a collection of poetry titled "Leaves from the Poet Tree." The reading will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. and members of the community are invited to attend.



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Kris Dubé
The Times

When an idea comes to Glenn Hutton's mind, he doesn't hesitate to put it down on paper.

This is the result of the two latest publications he has completed, a fictional novel titled "Sean and Himself" and a collection of poetry called "Leaves from the Poet Tree."

The former councillor who was in office from 1982 to 85 will be at the From Cover to Cover Bookstore next Saturday for a reading of both pieces of work.

The novel, he has worked on for the last ten years, while his poetry is something he has been creating since he was in elementary school.

"I've been writing poetry all my life," said Hutton when he met with the Times this week.

Ideas will come suddenly to Hutton and as soon as they do, he knows he has to write them down immediately so there is no quality lost over time.

"Sometimes I will wake up in the middle of the night and start a poem."

— Glenn Hutton

"Sometimes I will wake up in the middle of the night and start a poem," said Hutton.

Knowing this is the formula for his craft, he makes sure it is prepared everywhere he goes, just in case inspiration unexpectedly comes knocking at the door.

"I always carry paper and a pen. If I don't get it down, it's gone," he said.

"Sean and Himself" does have a storyline that is friendly to younger audiences, but it is not meant to target only one demographic of reader, he explained.

Hutton feels young readers should challenge them-

selves and not intentionally stay away from literature that is considered to be above their intellect or level of knowledge.

"If a child doesn't know what a word means, it's a good time to learn," he said.

Becoming more familiar with more complicated words or writing styles is a good segue into building one's understanding of the English language and "talking down" to a younger group of reader will only make things more complicated as they grow, he feels.

"That way they can have a vocabulary people will be amazed by," said Hutton.

He also holds a bi-weekly poetry workshop in Niagara Falls, where he has musicians enrolled seeking advice on songwriting techniques, considering he does have a musical background, playing instruments like the washboard and the baritone ukelele.

The readings will take place at the From Cover to Cover Bookstore on Ridge Road next Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Regional taxes decreasing

Niagara Region held the line on taxes and residents will see a decrease in Regional taxes this year, after it passed its 2011 net operating budget of \$262.8 million and capital budget of \$135.2 million. On average a homeowner with a property assessed at \$210,000 would pay about \$1,320; a decrease of \$18.35 from the 2010 tax levy.

The budget actually repre-

sents a total tax levy increase of 0.10 per cent over 2010, but after assessment growth of 1.47 per cent, residents will see a decrease in property taxes of almost 1.37 per cent. Water, wastewater and waste management requisition rates were also approved last night. Water will see a zero per cent increase, wastewater a 1.7 per cent increase and waste management a 2.4 per cent

increase.

"Regional Council and staff have addressed the important issues of affordability, transparency and accountability in this budget," said Regional Chair Gary Burroughs.

"This year, two pre-budget community forums were held and their public was invited to speak at all regularly scheduled Budget Review Committee meetings. It is a critical time for our region and we must do everything we can to achieve a balance between protecting the programs and services that residents depend on and ensuring residents can afford to pay for them," concluded Burroughs.

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Mother and son share love of martial arts

Kris Dubé
The Times

Lisa Greenaway might be slightly over five-feet tall but it doesn't mean she can't pack a punch.

A local resident and owner of Ridgeway Karate on Garrison Road, has plenty of experience in the martial arts under her third degree black belt, which includes her competing in Japan and winning the gold in the World Cup in Toronto, two years ago. Right now, she is training diligently for a national competition...and if she places, will advance to the Pan-American Games. Her love of karate began with her first class in 1995.

"I had never seen or experienced anything like that before...it was fun, exciting, challenging, and mind-boggling, and it still is," she laughs.

Seventeen years later, she is still reaping the benefits of traditional karate.

"It's not just a full body workout, which gets you in and keeps you in great shape, challenging, but there are so many things...Emotionally, physically, logically, spiritually, and of course physically, karate has a way of bringing out your

strengths and weaknesses and gives you the tools and confidence to push yourself past your own self-imposed limits," she said.

"In the dojo, we say, 'Osu', which means go beyond," she added.

Karate did not come easy to her, she says she was quiet and shy at first and didn't even make a noise until she earned her purple belt.

"Now I try to be the loudest, fastest, strongest that I can...It feels so good to push myself and others to strive to do our personal best. You will be amazed at what you find inside yourself. I found a warrior."

She says the great thing about karate is not matter your age, weight, fitness level, whatever you are looking to gain or improve: karate can help you achieve it. From a stressed out mom who needs a release, or a Sully who needs to learn how to control his temper, to someone who needs to learn self control, and discipline. If you want to lose weight, defend yourself, compete, or be a professional martial artist, you can achieve it.

"I've seen it, I've done it, and so can you."

What makes Greenaway's love for karate extra special is that it has trickled down to her

17-year-old son, Dalton, who at the age of eight became the youngest black belt in Canada. He continued that without his mother's passion for it, he probably wouldn't be as interested as he is. "She's definitely what has kept me in into it," said Dalton.

Lisa admits she continually stressed the importance of following her footsteps with Dalton, but compared it to parents making children take music lessons. Children grumble and complain about lessons, and then years and years later appreciate the ability to make beautiful music.

"Yes, I made Dalton train, he gave me such a hard time, but today...he sees the benefits and is thankful for his rock hard body, his speed, power, and his fighting ability."

Dalton loves the competitive aspect of karate, he brought home the silver medal in his division at the World Cup, and he and his mother are training hard in their new traditional dojo made possible by the generosity of a local business owner who knows the importance of investing in our children's health and well being, explained Greenaway.

They invite you to see what karate can bring out in you and your family.



Lisa Greenaway, left, and her 17-year-old son Dalton in action at Ridgeway Karate on Garrison Road recently. Greenaway is a third-degree black belt and Dalton was the youngest black belt in Canada, when he earned it at the age of eight.

Hawks getting started next weekend

The Niagara Hawks Senior 'B' lacrosse team is calling on the local athletic community to join its team for this season.

The first practice will be held at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre before moving back to the Leisureplex for the duration of the season. Anyone interested can contact Heath Garlow at (716) 341-3049 or Ken Bennett at (289) 320-8707.

The practice requires players to dress in full equipment and all are welcome. If you are currently the member of

another team, a release or permission from that team is required.

The season starts on April 29 at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre before moving back to the Leisureplex for the duration of the season. Anyone interested can contact Heath Garlow at (716) 341-3049 or Ken Bennett at (289) 320-8707.

The practice requires players to dress in full equipment and all are welcome. If you are currently the member of

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Births



Congratulations Terry and Tammy to a
beautiful granddaughter. We want to
welcome Alyssa Joann Waugh
to the family. Weight: 9 lbs. 5.8 oz.
Love, Dad, Mom and Family.

1202101



Heaton (Yasko)

Harrison has a new baby to hold. His baby
brother "Baron Marcus" was born on
February 15 at St. Catharines General
Hospital. Baron weighed 7 lbs 12oz, and
measured 20 inches. He was born to his
parents Chris and Mirenda and
grandparents Pamela Yasko and Marc Yasko
(Sandra) and David Heaton. Marge Thombs
and Linda Yasko were there to help. Thank
you to Dr. Okan and all the
nursing staff for their care.

1202101

We are sad within our memory,
Lonely are our thoughts today,
For the one loved so dearly,
Has forever been called away.



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Thank You Cards

I want to say

A BIG THANK YOU

for what became a month long
celebration of my 70th Birthday,
February 18th. I want to say thank you to my
sister for the limo ride, lunch and wine
and chocolate tasting fun day, to my
daughters for the Surprise Party and to
my 6 children and their families for the
Brunch.

Thanks to my family, friends and
neighbours for all the gifts, cards,
lunches, flowers, phone calls and even
singing Happy Birthday to me. Special
thanks to my family. You are the best!
Audrey Sims.

1202101

Deaths

Deaths



FELTRIN, Gina - Passed away February
28th, 2011. Loving wife of Vernon. Beautiful
mother of Linda (Bob) (Elliott),
Suzanne (John) and Andrea (Jaymie). Dear
sister of Elio and the late Renate. Devoted
daughter of the late Anita and Charlie Tardz.
She was blessed with the love of family and
dear friends.

Funeral arrangements: BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES, 1105

Bennet Road, Fort Erie, entrusted with arrangements.

Family will receive friends on Saturday March 5th from 7:30pm and

10:00pm at the funeral home.

Funeral mass service at St. Michael's

Roman Catholic Church, 310 Central Ave.

on Monday March 7th at 10:00am.

Entombment at Pleasantview Memorial

Hamilton, Ontario. In memory of

the greatest husband and father anyone

could ask for. May God keep you in his

loving arms till we meet again.

LOCASTRO, Calogero (Charlie)

- Born June 29, 1933 in Siculiana, Sicily. Passed away peacefully on March 3, 2011 at the Greeter Niagara General Hospital with his family by his side after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 47 years Giovanna, his children Carmela (Jerome) Whiller and Nuccio (Cindy) LoCastro. Moe loved Nonno of Jessie and Jeremy Whiller, Nick LoCastro and greet grandsons Nick Whiller, Christopher and Carmela (Sam) Fummasa of Fort Erie, Maria (Girando), Lorenza, Giuseppina and Vincenza (Giuseppe) and sister in law Pine of Italy. Calogero is survived by son Salvatore and brother in law of Leo and Angela Manzella of Woodbridge, Vincenzo (Angela), Nine (Giuseppe) and Margarita (Calogero) of Italy. Beloved Zio Lito to many nieces and nephews in Canada and the United States. Beloved Uncle to Carmela and Carmela LoCastro, infant son Ondro LoCastro, his brothers Giovanni, Salvatore and sister Alfonza LoCastro and father in law state Manzella. He will be missed by many more.

Funeral arrangements: BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES, 1105

Bennet Road, Fort Erie, entrusted with arrangements.

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Entombment at Pleasantview Memorial

Hamilton, Ontario. In memory of

the greatest husband and father anyone

could ask for. May God keep you in his

loving arms till we meet again.

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Card of thanks
MATURANI

The family of Darren John (Giovanni) Maturani wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our family, friends and neighbours for the words of comfort, prayers, cards, floral arrangements, food, charitable donations and Mass cards that were given. Your kindness will always be remembered. Special thanks to Father Randy Gallant, our readers and pallbearers, the Italo-Canadian Club, Marisa's Catering and the Knights of Columbus.

Our deepest gratitude to Darren Flagg of Benner Funeral Services for his compassionate guidance as well as to Dr. Cesardi, Dr. Rattner and Dr. Gudette for their care and concern throughout the years. A special thank you to the Cardilli family for staying with us during this difficult time.

The chain has been broken and he will be missed.

From his loving wife, Tarra, their children Anna (Sandy) McQuiston and Lou Maturani and granddaughter, Megan.

1525454

Years go by. Memories stay
As near and dear as yesterday

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Darren Flagg

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Card of thanks
THANK YOU

The family of Donny George Rivet (Gumby) wish to thank family and friends for their cards, cards and prayers. A special thank you to Pastor Stan Bursay and the First Baptist Church Assembly who have prayed for Donny during these last 9 years.

Thank you to all who came for your understanding and compassion and to all who came to remember Donny. You will live in our hearts forever. Donny, Shirley, and Marlene (Gumby) the Rivet family and the Crosswell family.

1525455

Every day, in some small way,
Memories of you come our way.
Though absent, you are ever near,
Still missed, still loved, and ever dear.

Memories Verse #4
To remember a loved one with this verse
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Card of thanks
With Sincere Thanks

The family of the late Gordon "St" Sherk wishes to express sincere appreciation to our friends and relatives for your kindness and support during the recent loss of our Father, Gordon "St" Sherk. Thank you for your comforting words, flowers, donations, gifts of food and

We would like to thank the staff at Maple Park Lodge for the excellent care that Dad received during his final years. A special thank you to Irene. Irene has compassion and care in handling the funeral service. Heartfelt thanks to the staff at the funeral home for providing such a warm and caring atmosphere during this difficult time.

Dawn, Ann, John and their families.

1525458
Thank You!

The family of the late Hello (Mac) Marcacio wish to express our thanks and appreciation for all the kind thoughts, prayers and cards that we received for our dear brother and uncle who left us on Friday, February 4, 2011 in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. From sisters Josie, Estelle (Lena) Jerry, nieces and nephew.

1525459
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In memoriam

MARY LAROCQUE (DeRoche)

In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother who passed away March 4, 2009. Each year we will celebrate.

We know who you are gone,
And no one knows the heartache

As we try to carry on.

Our hearts still ache with sadness

And we still have to lose more,

What it means to lose you.

No one will ever know.

Our thoughts are always with you

Your place no one can fill.

In the years to come, our hearts

And where we will still

Theres will always be a heartache

And often a silent tear,

But always a precious memory

Of the days we will never forget.

We will always have our hearts

And there we will remain.

To walk with us throughout our lives

Until we meet again.

Sadly missed by her family (Gems),

children Judy (Jim), Eric (Menele),

John (Katie), Giles and Nicole (Scott),

grandchildren and great grandchildren.


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Change in chairmanship at Peace Bridge

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA) announced recently that Anthony Annunziata has been elected chairman of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA) board of directors.

"It's an honor and privilege to once again serve the Buffalo-Niagara region as chairman of the Peace Bridge Authority," said Annunziata.

The Peace Bridge is an integral component to the economic viability of the world's two greatest democracies. That's why my focus will be on achieving greater reliability and smoother traffic facilitation at the crossing, adequate border staffing, and promotion of trusted traveler programs like NEXUS."

Annunziata is the Vice President of Marketing for the Marriott Fallsview and Spa, and the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and

Conference Centre of Niagara Falls, ON.

He has an extensive background in advertising, strategic marketing, and international tourism.

Ken Schoetz was elected Vice Chairman. He is a Senior Vice President for Empire State Development Corporation working out of Buffalo, NY.

Prior to his current responsibilities he was the head of the New York State Attorney General's Buffalo office and before that was the Erie County Attorney.

This is Annunziata's third non-consecutive term as chairman.

He was first appointed to the board in January 2007. Schoetz is now serving his second non-consecutive term as vice chairman. He was first appointed to the board by the New York State Attorney General in April 2003.

The Buffalo and Fort Erie

Public Bridge Authority, a binational bridge authority, has owned and operated the Peace Bridge since 1933.

The bridge, which was opened to traffic in 1927, spans the Niagara River between Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York, and is a key international border crossing.

The Authority is governed by a 10 member board with an equal number of representatives from Canada and the United States.

As an international compact and in accordance with its enabling legislation, the chairmanship alternates annually between Canada and the United States.

Day of the Woman



On Friday, the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce hosted its International Women's Day luncheon at Bridgewater Country Club. Tawnia Weidinger, left, of 'Have Makeup, Will Travel: Mobile Makeup Service,' with Barbara Hicks of Sears Travel were just two of the many women who attended. The Times will publish a more detailed story next week.

Bricks & Bouquets

If you have a brick or bouquet send it to editorial@forterietimes.com or phone 905-871-3100, ext. 210 and leave a message

Bouquet

To the four local councillors, especially councillor Collard, for not buckling into threats, intimidation and strong-arm tactics and voting against the Bay Beach Condo Project. Thank you for listening to the majority of the people and making the right very good for the community.

Brick

To all the people who don't clean up after their dogs in the north end of Fort Erie. Are you kidding me? You can't bend down and scoop? It only takes one minute. It must be really interesting to see a pig walking a dog though.

Bouquet

To parents who take advantage of the snowy weather by taking their kids outside to get some exercise.

Brick

To people who can't accept the information or answers they have been given, just because it isn't what they wanted to hear. Learn to live with correct information and not your own personal opinion.

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Meteors down one game in first round of playoffs

Second game tonight at Leisureplex

Although the 2010-11 regular season isn't being considered to be the best in Fort Erie Meteors' history, they local squad is hoping for a fresh start during the playoffs.

On Wednesday night, the Meteors faced off against the

Thorold Blackhawks on the road and were shutout by a score of 2-0.

The Blackhawks outshot the Meteors 38 to 19, but solid goaltending kept the score as low as it was.

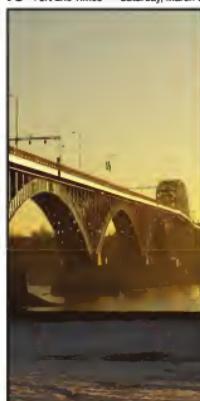
The Meteors gave Thorold five powerplay opportunities, but both goals were scored during five-on-five play.

Game two is tonight at the Leisureplex at 7:15 pm.





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Chamber News

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AGM

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